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Message Text

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44
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 SY-05 ISO-00 A-01 ABF-01 SSO-00 FBO-02

SCCT-01 SIG-01 /039 W
---------- 020491
R 180907Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY BERN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1360
INFO AMCONSUL ZURICH
USMISSION GENEVA

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FOR DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY EAGLEBURGER FROM CHARGE

GENEVA FOR RSO

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJ: SECURITY PROTECTION AFFORDED TO PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS AT
OVERSEAS POSTS

REF: STATE 210312

1. SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE COVERS BERN AND ZURICH PHYSICAL SECURITY NEEDS. DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE BERN CHANCERY OCCUPIES HALF A HOTEL BUILDING, ADEQUATE PHYSICAL SECURITY IS VERY DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN. SIMILARLY, OUR CONSULATE GENERAL OFFICES IN ZURICH HAVE RECENTLY BEEN RELOCATED TO SPACE IN A NEW OFFICE BUILDING AND ARE ALSO DIFFICULT TO PROTECT. THESE PROPOSALS TO AMELIORATE THE CURRENT LACK OF PHYSICAL SECURITY ARE PROPOSED BELOW:

2. THE SITUATION IN BERN: THE CHANCERY WHICH WE NOW OCCUPY WAS "TEMPORARILY" LEASED IN 1953 AND CONSISTS OF HALF OF THE SILVAHOF HOTEL. SINCE THERE MUST BE UNIMPEDED ACCESS TO THE HOTEL, IT IS IMPOIBLE TO CONSTRUCT ANY OUTSIDE DEFENSIVE PERIMETER. THE MARINE GUARD AND A LOCAL RECEPTIONIST
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JOINTLY CONTROL AN ELECTRICALLY LOCKED OUTER DOOR AND A KEY

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LOCKED INNER DOOR. HOWEVER, AFTER A VISITOR PASSES THROUGH THESE TWO DOORS, THERE IS NO REAL FURTHER CONTROL OF HIS MOVEMENTS. THERE IS THEREFORE, PRESENTLY, ALMOST NO PROTECTION AGAINST TERRORIST ATTACKS. ON THE BRIGHTER SIDE, HOWEVER, THERE IS EXCELLENT POTENTIAL PROTECTION AGAINST MOB VIOLENCE. ALL WINDOWS AND ENTRANCES HAVE METAL SHUTTERS, WHICH CAN BE QUICKLY ROLLED DOWN.

3. THE PRESENT SITUATION IN ZURICH: ACCESS TO THE CONSULAR AND COMMERCIAL SECTIONS IS NOW COMPLETELY OPEN. THERE ARE NO GUARDS, NEITHER MARINE NOR CONTRACT. THE ADMINISTRATIVE, POLITICAL AND EXECUTIVE SECTIONS ARE ON ANOTHER FLOOR. ACCESS IS ADEQUATELY CONTROLLED BY MEANS OF A CYPHER LOCK ON THE STAIRWELL DOOR AND AN ELEVATOR KEY CONTROL.

4. ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION IN BERN AND ZURICH: THE EMBASSY GIVES HIGHESE PRIORITY TO ESTABLISHING ADEQUATE PHYSICAL SECURITY IN ZURICH DUE TO THE FACT THAT IT IS NEAR A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AS WELL AS BEING CLOSE TO THE WEST GERMAN BORDER. THE MODERN PREMISES OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL EASILY LEND THEMSELVES TO THE INSTALLATION OF EFFECTIVE PHYSICAL SECURITY DEVICES WHICH ARE DESCRIBED BELOW. THE BERN CHANCERY IS MORE DIFFICULT TO PROTECT DUE TO LACK OF ADEQUATE SPACE FOR A RECEPTION AREA AND OUR INABILITY TO ESTABLISH AN OUTSIDE DEFENSIVE PARIMETER. THE MOST EFFECTIVE DEFENSIVE MEASURE WE COULD TAKE IN BERN, WOULD TO ABANDON OUR "TEMPORARY" CHANCERY AND CONSTRUCT OR PURCHASE A MODERN CHANCERY. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE CONSIDER BERN TO BE A LESS LIKELY SPOT THAN ZURICH FOR A TERRORIST ATTACK, DUE TO THE LACK OF AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND ITS LOCATION IN CENTRAL SWITZERLAND.

5. PROPOSED SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS FOR ZURICH: CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ELECTRICALLY CONTROLLED BULLET PROOF DOORS LEADING TO THE CONSULAR AND COMMERCIAL SECTIONS AND A BULLET PROOF GUARD-CONTROL BOX IN THE ENTRY VESTIBULE. ONE FULL-TIME CONTRACT GUARD. EMBASSY REQUESTED 15,000 DOLS FROM EUR FOR THE PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS AND 12,000 FOR THE GUARD. HOWEVER, THE BANK SECURITY COMPANY WHICH PREPARED THE ESTIMATE FOR THE PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS HAS NOW FIRMLY QUOTED 24,000 DOLS FOR ALL IMPROVEMENTS. WE BELIEVE THAT, WHEN THESE IMPROVEMENTS ARE COMPLETED, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ZURICH'S PHYSICAL SECURITY WILL BE GREATLY IMPROVED.

6. PROPOSED SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS FOR BERN: FIRST PROPOSAL IS FOR A SET OF BULLET PROOF DOORS AND GUARD BOX CONTROLLING ACCESS TO THE VISA AND CITIZENSHIP UNITS. COST IS ABOUT 16,000 DOLS. THIS AMOUNT WAS REQUESTED IN OUR FY-1976 FBO BUDGET. A MINOR IMPROVEMENT PROPOSAL HAS BEEN POUCHED TO FBO. SECOND PROPOSAL IS FOR IRON GRILLS FOR OUR TWO SKYLIGHTS (COST DOLS 3,000),

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IRON GRILLS FOR THE REAR FIRST FLOOR WINDOWS AND DOORS
AND MYLAR FOR FIRST AND SECOND FLOOR WINDOWS (COST DOLS 20,000),
AND BULLET PROOF CYPHER LOCK DOORS FOR OUR STAIRCASES AND CERTAIN
CONSULAR AND USIS OFFICES ON HE GROUND FLOOR (COST DOLS 20,000).
THESE AMOUNTS HAVE NOT BEEN INCLUDED IN OUR FBO BUDGET. WE ARE
NOW PREPARING MINOR IMPROVEMENTS REQUESTS FOR THESE PROJECTS.

7. SUMMARY OF FUNDS REQUIRED IN PRIORITY ORDER:

A. ZURICH DOORS AND GUARD BOX DOLS 24,000 (PROGRAM)
B. ZURICH CONTRACT GUARD DOLS 12,000 (PROGRAM)
C. BERN DOORS AND GUARD BOX DOLS 16,000 (FBO)
D. BERN SKYLIGHT GRILLS DOLS 3,000 (FBO)
E. BERN 1ST FLOOR GRILLS AND MYLAR DOLS 20,000 (FBO)
F. BERN SECURE DOORS DOLS 20,000 (FBO)

8. WE HAVE NOT INCLUDED IN THE ABOVE FUNDING REQUIREMENTS COSTS
FOR CLOSED CIRCUIT TV, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND IS DIRECTLY FUNDED
BY SY AND WHICH WE HAVE BEEN AWAITING FOR OVER ONE YEAR.

9. YOUR CONCERN IS DEEPLY APPRECIATED. IN VIEW OF THE LACK OF
ANY PHYSICAL SECURITY IN ZURICH AND THE SERIOUS WEAKNESS IN
BERN'S DEFENSES, WE URGE PROMPT FUNDING, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
ZURICH CONGEN AND RSO GENEVA CONCUR THIS MESSAGE.
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